

DETAILED ACTION

1. This is the second Office action on the merits of Application No. 10/572,350, filed on 27 November 2006. Claims 23-44 are pending.

Documents

2. The following documents have been received and filed as part of the patent application:
- Foreign Priority Document, received on 03/17/06
 - Information Disclosure Statement, received on 03/17/06
 - Declaration and Power of Attorney, received on 11/27/06
 - English Translation of Foreign Priority Document, received on 08/27/09

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with applicant's attorney, Charles N. J. Ruggiero, on 17 December 2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 23:

- Line 15, "power branches alone or jointly in a closed state" has been amended as -
-power branches jointly in a closed state--.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 23-44 are allowed.
5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 23:

The prior art of record fails to show or render obvious a gearbox module as recited in claim 23; specifically, wherein each of the synchronously shiftable couplings enables power to flow via the power branches jointly in a closed state.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DAVID D. LE whose telephone number is (571)272-7092. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (0900-1730).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David D. Le can be reached on 571-272-7092. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/David D. Le/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3655
12/18/2009

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